



BOROUGH OF BILSTON



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year

1961



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J. P. NEYLON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.C.H.
Medical Officer of Health

Health Department
23, Wellington Road
Bilston

Tel. 41451

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Bilston.*

MR. MAYOR, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I present herewith my Annual Report for 1961.

FOREWORD

'Quot homines tot sententiae: suo quoque unus'.

'So many men, so many opinions; his own a law to each'.

—Phormio, 454,

Terence (c.190–159 B.C.)

Because of the statutory requirements of the Ministry of Health, Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health tend to follow a somewhat rigid, conventional pattern, so that little difference is detected between the Report for 1961 and its immediate predecessors. This combined with the factual nature of the information contained therein, detracts from the readability and interest of such reports.

Retrospective examination of events in the Public Health sphere in Bilston during 1961 does not reveal any momentous events. There were no major epidemics and the health of the community on the whole must be deemed satisfactory. In the Department itself work went on smoothly and steadily as can be judged from the mass of figures embodied in the Report.

In the Section dealing with General Provisions of Health Services the excellent response of the public to Poliomyelitis vaccination and in a lesser degree to the other immunological procedures with the exception of Smallpox, is described.

It is very satisfactory to report in Part II that after two years of a disturbingly high Infantile Mortality Rate, the lowest level yet, for the Borough, has been recorded.

The prevalence of a mild, but widespread epidemic of measles is responsible for the sharp rise in notifications of Infectious Diseases. The absence of any cases of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis for the third successive year is the most noteworthy feature in the section relating to Epidemiology.

As in recent years, steady progress in slum clearance and erection of municipal houses was made.

The extremely high standard of meat inspection, which we now associate with Bilston, was maintained during the year due to the vigilance and unceasing efforts of the Public Health Inspectors.

During 1961, it was unnecessary to institute legal proceedings under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, against the proprietors or food handlers of any of the many premises inspected.

As always, this Report has been prepared in accordance with the various circulars and instructions received from the appropriate Ministers.

I wish to thank the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors for their kindness and forbearance during the year, and the Chief Officers and Staffs of other Corporation Departments for their courtesy and co-operation. I wish to thank Mr. J. R. Tart, the Chief Public Health Inspector, the Public Health Inspectors, and the clerical staff of the Health Department, for their help and loyalty, and in particular for their efforts in the compilation of this Report. In conclusion, I must extend my sincere thanks to the Chairman of the Health Committee, Alderman N. Bayliss, J.P., C.C., for his unfailing help, advice and encouragement during 1961.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. P. Neylon.

Medical Officer of Health.

21st June, 1962.

PART I.

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES

*'There might be medical doctors . . . a cocking their
medical eyes'.*

—(Jerry Cruncher)

A Tale of Two Cities, bk.iii. Ch. 9.

Charles Dickens (1812–1870).

A. SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL

HEALTH COMMITTEE AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1961.

Chairman: ALDERMAN N. BAYLISS, J.P., C.C.

Vice-Chairman: COUNCILLOR H. A. HUMPHRIES

THE MAYOR (EX-OFFICIO)

ALDERMAN MISS A. FELLOWS

COUNCILLOR G. HARRIES JONES, B.A.

ALDERMAN O. H. JONES, J.P.

COUNCILLOR J. LARKIN

ALDERMAN J. V. LAVENDER

COUNCILLOR A. W. PACE

COUNCILLOR W. FELLOWS

COUNCILLOR J. WALTON

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health :

J. P. NEYLON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (N.U.I.), D.P.H. (Leeds), D.C.H.
(R.C.P. and S.I.)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

(Part Time)

W. BARRY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (N.U.I.)

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :

J. R. TART, Cert.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Senior Public Health Inspector :

T. C. MOSS, Cert. S.I.B.

Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

J. W. BARBER, Cert.S.I.B.

N. MILLINER, Cert.P.H.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

(Terminated 31.5.61)

R. CHISHOLM, M.A.P.H.I.

Certificated Inspector of Meat and Other Foods

(Commenced 1.6.61)

Pupil Public Health Inspector :

B. HALES

(Re-commenced 5th April, 1961)

Clerical Staff :

Health :

MISS R. P. SHEFFIELD

MISS J. A. NEWELL

W. ASTON (Terminated 7.4.61)

G. ILLIDGE (Commenced 24.5.61)

Cleansing :

L. R. LITTLEWOOD (Part Time)

DUTIES OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

The duties are those laid down in the Public Health Acts of 1875 and 1936; the Local Government Act, 1933; The Housing Act, 1936; Factories Act, 1937; Food and Drugs Act, 1955; Clean Air Act, 1956, and the Orders and Regulations made thereunder, including in particular the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959. Briefly these are :—

- (1) To inform himself of all matters likely to affect the health of the Borough and to advise the Council in such matters.
- (2) To inquire into the cause, origin and distribution of diseases.
- (3) To inquire into the cause and circumstances of any outbreak of dangerous infectious disease and to take all necessary steps to prevent the extension thereof.
- (4) To directly supervise the work of the Public Health Inspectors.
- (5) If necessary, to inspect and examine any animal or any article, unfit for human food, and if diseased or unfit for it to be seized and dealt with.
- (6) To inquire into any offensive trades carried out.
- (7) To inspect or cause to be inspected all food preparing premises, and take all necessary steps to prevent any dangers to health in such premises.
- (8) To report to the Ministry of Health and other Ministries as required by them from time to time.
- (9) To make an Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department and the health of the district.
- (10) The Medical Officer of Health also acts as School Medical Officer and Assistant County Medical Officer for Staffordshire County Council, which appointments involve the carrying out of school medical inspections, infant welfare and ante natal clinics. He also examines prospective employees of both the County Council and Bilston Borough Council in connection with superannuation and sickness benefit schemes.

Chief Public Health Inspector

The duties of the Chief Public Health Inspector are as detailed in Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and the Acts referred to below :—

- (1) To systematically inspect the district and to keep himself and the Medical Officer of Health informed of any nuisances that require abatement and of any other sanitary circumstances.

- (2) To periodically inspect all food preparing premises and to inform the Medical Officer of Health of any action thought necessary.
- (3) To act as officer of the Local Authority under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.
- (4) To act as the Local Authority's inspector under the Shops Act, 1951, and Pet Animals Act, 1951.
- (5) To act as the Local Authority's Cleansing Superintendent ; that is to supervise the collection and disposal of house and trade refuse.
- (6) To furnish the Medical Officer of Health with a tabular statement, giving the inspections made by him during the year, the notices served and the results of the service of such notices.

Senior Additional Public Health Inspector

The Senior Public Health Inspector acts as deputy for the Chief Public Health Inspector during his absence through any cause.

B. GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES

Twenty-nine medical practitioners maintain a high standard of medical practice while providing General Medical Services under the National Health Service Act, 1946, for Bilston's thirty three thousand residents. Excellent liaison exists between local practitioners and the Health Department personnel. Bilston has not experienced the shortage of medical man-power that is so frequently stated to exist in various parts of the country at the present time. While there may be difficulty in filling some of the Junior Hospital posts, (and hasn't there always been) especially in the less favoured specialities as Psychiatry, Ear, Nose and Throat Surgery, Ophthalmology and Dermatology, there is no dearth of applicants for the more highly remunerated posts in the National Health Service. This is well shown by the facts, that there was an average of eighteen candidates for each General Practice Vacancy advertised by Executive Councils during 1961 and that having been duly advertised, there are to my knowledge no unfilled Consultant Posts in the Hospital Service.

C. HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Hospital and Specialist services for Bilston are provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board—the hospitals mainly used by the inhabitants being The Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton ; The Women's Hospital, Wolverhampton ; Moxley Infectious Diseases Hospital, Bilston ; New Cross Hospital, Wednesfield ; The Midland Counties Eye Infirmary, Wolverhampton ; Parkfields and Prestwood Sanatoria, and Burton Road Hospital, Dudley. All the Hospitals are helpful and co-operative in any dealings with the Health Department, but particular reference must be made to Burton Road Hospital, Dudley, where the Consultant Geriatrician is very willing to admit cases referred from this Department.

D. SERVICES OF THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

School Health

Staffordshire County Council is responsible for the statutory School Health Service—a service, which many think has outlived its usefulness since the inception of a comprehensive, free National Health Scheme. Although school children are bigger, stronger, cleaner and healthier than ever before and grave clinical defects are rarely encountered during periodic routine school medical inspections, it appears to me that this service has still an important role to play in maintaining and furthering the high standards of health and hygiene—especially in the field of Mental Health—which now obtain. Minor aberrations of conduct frequently come to light for the first time during school ‘medicals’. In the peaceful quiet atmosphere of the school examination room, parents will frequently mention ‘trivialities’, which they would never voice in the busy, bustling surgery of the family Doctor.

In Bilston the health of the school population is catered for by three full-time School Nurses, three part-time School Medical Officers, and one full-time Dental Officer, who is kept extremely busy, because of lack of School Dental Officers in neighbouring areas.

Maternal Health

Five full-time midwives deal with domiciliary midwifery in the district. Ante Natal Clinics are held twice weekly under the supervision of an obstetrician from the Wolverhampton Hospital Group, who is employed for these sessions by the Local Health Authority.

Again in this sphere many question the desirability of retaining Local Authority Ante Natal Clinics because of the considerable overlapping with the Hospital and General Practitioner Services and the consequent divided responsibility. Patients are known to have attended the family doctor in the evening, the clinic the next day, and the Hospital Ante Natal Out-Patient the following day. Such occurrences indicate the need for streamlining the Ante Natal and Obstetric Services. In my opinion the Local Authority Clinics are mainly useful as a media for Health Education, while routine clinical examinations, urine testing, and the various serological tests can be carried out as well and as expeditiously in the Out-Patients or the Surgery. Neither the Hospital Staff nor the General Practitioner has the time or the inclination to engage in Health Education. Undoubtedly there is no time, when women are in so receptive a frame of mind for the inculcation of new and better concepts of healthy living as when pregnant, especially if pregnant for the first time. ‘Relaxation’ exercises are a useful physical and mental adjunct to good Ante Natal care, and where better can they be performed than in the unhurried calm of the clinic. This coupled with the emphasis on Health Education is sufficient reason for retaining Local Authority Ante Natal Clinics.

Child Health

Three full-time Health Visitors are employed—a big improvement in staffing since last year. Infant Welfare Clinics are held twice weekly at the Centre Health Clinic, Bilston, and twice monthly at John Street Schools, Ettingshall.

The value and efficiency of this service needs no further comment.

District Nursing Service

Four female and two male District Nurses are employed in the Bilston area, by the County Council. The outstanding benefit of this service is the home nursing of so many patients, who would otherwise have to be hospitalised, at inconvenience to themselves and at increased cost to the community.

Day Nursery

This institution has now been closed down because of structural defects and the children transferred to a newer building in Willenhall. Approximately seven Bilston children attend the Day Nursery.

Ambulance Service

An excellent ambulance service provided by the County Council is based on Darlaston.

Chiropody Service

Recently inaugurated, the Chiropody Service is of inestimable value to the elderly. Sessions are held at the Centre Health Clinic on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. If required and on certification by the Family Doctor or the Health Visitor, domiciliary chiropodical work is also undertaken.

Domestic Help Service

Since its inception in 1948 there has been an ever growing demand for this service. It is unnecessary to reiterate its value, especially in the case of the aged and chronic sick.

Laboratory Facilities

General Practitioners and the Health Department make use of the facilities available.

Vaccination

Vaccination against Smallpox is carried out by local General Practitioners acting as agents of the Local Health Authority. While the figures for 1961 show an increase over the preceding year, the number of children being vaccinated remains at a pathetically low level, as shown by the following figures.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Initial Vaccination					
Under 15 years	..	..	..	47	62
15 years and over	..	..	..	8	2
Re-Vaccination					
Under 15 years	..	..	..	—	1
15 years and over	..	..	..	7	1

Immunisation

The figures for the various immunological procedures performed within the Borough during 1961 are shown thus :—

Poliomyelitis

Completed course of 2 injections during 1961					
Born 1943—1960	..	..	..	1,357	1,047
Born before 1943	..	..	..	1,121	1,262
Expectant Mothers	..	..	..	—	21
Third Injections					
Born 1943—1960	..	..	..	518	651
Born before 1943	..	..	..	168	311
Fourth Injections					
Born 1943—1960	..	..	..	36	42

Diphtheria

Under 15 years of age					
Completed initial treatment	..	..	..	296	275
Reinforcing Doses	..	..	..	201	213

Whooping Cough

Under 15 years of age					
Completed initial treatment	..	..	..	214	194
Reinforcing Doses	..	..	..	11	8

It is very heartening to note the increase for all figures, but especially for those involving antigens given against Poliomyelitis. There was an increase of 1,743 injections of Polio antigens (including children and adults up to 40 years) over the preceding year; an increase of 364 Anti-Diphtheria injections; and 117 against Whooping Cough.

'Open' Sessions for Poliomyelitis immunisation were held on the first Monday evening of the month throughout most of the year. During June and July, because of public demand, no doubt due to a certain amount of apprehension engendered by the occurrence of a few cases of Acute Poliomyelitis in some nearby districts, it was found necessary to hold extra 'Open' Sessions. Many of those who attended were from well outside the Borough. Propaganda from a van equipped with loudspeaker and manned by Health Department personnel, personal exhortation by the Health Visitors and School Nurses, as well as display of suitable posters and notices, all played a big part in the success of the Anti-Polio Campaign.

Mental Health

During the year 18 mentally sub-normal children attended the Occupation Centre at King Street, Bradley. Periodic medical examinations of these children are carried out by the School Medical Officers.

D.

CARE OF THE ELDERLY

Care of the elderly devolves on the various partners of the National Health Service—the family Doctor, the Hospital and the Local Health Authority. Voluntary bodies and organisations still and will in the future, continue to play a vital part in this task. It is satisfactory to report that during 1961 it was found unnecessary to resort to Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, for the compulsory removal of aged persons or chronic sick to suitable accommodation.

PART II.

SOCIAL AND STATISTICAL INFORMATION

'I have often thought upon death and I find it the least of all evils'.

—An Essay on Death.
Francis Bacon (1561—1626).

Bilston—highly industrialised and densely populated—is a typical Black Country town, situated in South Eastern Staffordshire and forming part of the great West Midlands conurbation. It has long been associated with the manufacture of iron and steel products, in which field it enjoys a world wide reputation.

- (1) Geographical situation : latitude 52.340 N., longitude 2,400 W.
- (2) Elevation 400—525 feet.
- (3) Area of Borough : 1,871 acres.
- (4) Population :

(a) Census 1951	33,464
(b) Registrar General's Estimate for mid-year 1961	33,320
- (5) Density of population per acre 18
- (6) Number of inhabited houses at 31/12/61 9,725
- (7) Rateable Value at 1/4/62 £444,182
- (8) Product of Id. rate 1961/62 £1,785
- (9) The following figures are kindly supplied by the Manager of the Bilston Employment Exchange.

Unemployment figures :	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
11.12.61 Wholly unemployed ..	254	120
Temporarily stopped	62	—
- (10) The total number of factories in the town is 186.

TABLE I.

Brass Founders	4
Builders	4
Brush Manufacturers	1
Clothing Manufacturers	3
Coal Merchants	3
Engineering	78
Enamellers	3
Food Preparing Premises	18
Goods Transport	1
Glassware	1
Holloware	6
Iron and Steel	20
Laundry	1
Miscellaneous	13
Printers	3
Petrol Storage	1
Shoe Repairers	14
Stonemasons	2
Undertakers	1
Woodwork	9

Action taken under Part 1 and Part 8 of the Factories Act, 1937, is tabulated as follows :—

TABLE II

Part 1 of the Act.

Inspections for purposes as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	17	2	—	—
Factories in which Section 7 only is enforced by the Local Authority	169	11	—	—
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	8	—	—	—

TABLE III

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
Insufficient	1	1	—	1	—
Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE IV
Part 8 of the Act.
OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of outworkers in list required by Section 110 (1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel (making, etc.)	6	—	—	—	—	—
Carding, etc. of Buttons, etc.	21	—	—	—	—	—
Cosagues, Christmas Crackers, Christmas Stockings, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—
	27	—	—	—	—	—

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Borough during 1961 are given in the following pages, with comments in the appropriate places.

Births

<i>Live Births</i>					<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	574	309	265
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	30	10	20
Total					604	319	285

An actual increase of 33 live births.

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population : 18.13

Comparability factor for births : 0.89

Corrected live birth rate : 16.14

There is an increase from last year's figure of 15.21

Still Births

A still birth is defined as any child which has issued forth from its mother after the twenty-eighth week of pregnancy and which did not at any time after being completely expelled from its mother, breathe or show any signs of life.

Legitimate	..	..	..	..	10	4	6
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
					10	4	6

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births : 16.56

TABLE V.

<i>Year</i>							<i>Still Birth Rate</i>
1961	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.56
1960	..	..	..	..	..	..	26.27
1959	..	..	..	..	..	..	22.34
1958	..	..	..	..	..	..	34.77
1957	..	..	..	..	..	..	28.81
1956	..	..	..	..	..	..	27.69
1955	..	..	..	..	..	..	35.23
1954	..	..	..	..	..	..	26.36
1953	..	..	..	..	..	..	24.96

					Still Birth Rate		
<i>Total Live and Still Births</i>					<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	584	313	271
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	30	10	20
Total					614	323	291
<i>Infant Deaths</i>							
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	12	7	5
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
					12	7	5
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—total :						19.87	
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—legitimate :						20.90	
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—illegitimate :						Nil.	

TABLE VI.

Bilston Infant Mortality Rates over recent years.

1960	..	..	..	40.28
1959	..	..	..	29.79
1958	..	..	..	20.58
1957	..	..	..	26.17
1956	..	..	..	40.15
1955	..	..	..	27.82
1954	..	..	..	32.5
1953	..	..	..	41.6

The Infant Mortality Rate is the lowest on record for Bilston and is a remarkably pleasant change from the high rate of 40.28 experienced in 1960. It compares more than favourably with the National figure of 21.4 per 1,000 live births which, also is the lowest yet recorded for England and Wales. The heartening downward trend evidenced in both the National and Bilston figures is correlated with improving environmental conditions *i.e.*, diminished overcrowding, better housing, regular employment with higher standards of living, wider dissemination of knowledge, control of infectious diseases, and higher standards of curative medicine with particular emphasis on chemotherapeutic advances. We cannot, however, be smugly complacent about our Infantile Mortality Rate in Bilston, as we had a very low rate in 1958—also lower than the rate for England and Wales of that year. Since dealing with small series of figures, as obtain in a Borough with a population of 33,000, fluctuations are inevitable.

Stillbirth and Neo-Natal Rates are also involved in the extremely low level reached during 1961.

Congenital defects (denoted by letter *C*) are once again responsible for a high wastage of infant lives, being associated as seen from Table VII with 6 of the 12 deaths under 1 year and 5 of the 9 deaths under 1 week of age. Prematurity (denoted by *P*) is associated with 2 of the other 6 deaths.

TABLE VII.

INFANT DEATHS DURING 1961

Taken from Death Returns

<i>Date of Death</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Cause of Death</i>	
4. 1.61	6 months	Male	1A	Broncho Pneumonia.
			B	Heart Failure. C.
			C	Congenital Heart Disease.
2. 2.61	11 months	Male	1A	Influenzal Pneumonia.
29. 4.61	1 month	Female	1A	Pyogenic Meningitis and organism not grown on culture.
27. 5.61	2 days	Female	1A	Congenital Atelectasis.
			B	Cerebral Haemorrhage. C.
			C	Parturition Tearing of the Tentorium.
8. 6.61	1 day	Female	1A	Atelectasis.
			B	Prematurity. Birth Weight 3 lbs. 3 ozs. C.
2. 7.61	1 hour	Female	1A	Prematurity. P.
30. 7.61	2 days	Male	1A	Lobar Pneumonia.
14. 8.61	4 days	Male	1A	Multiple Congenital Abnormalities. C.
5. 9.61	3 hours	Female	1A	Pulmonary Atelectasis. C.
25.11.61	15 hours	Male	1A	Tentorial Tear.
			B	Cerebral Birth Injury.
26.11.61	23 hours	Male	1A	Cerebral Haemorrhage.
			B	Tentorial Tear.
			II	Hare Lip and Cleft Palate, Exomphalos, Absent Left Kidney. C.
26.11.61	5 minutes	Female	1A	Anoxia.
			B	Prematurity—Gestation 28 weeks. P.
			C	Premature Labour.

Neo Natal Mortality Rate

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births: 14.90

Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births : 4.97

Early Neo Natal Mortality Rate

Deaths of infants under 1 week of age per 1,000 total live births : 14.90

Peri Natal Mortality Rate

Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births : 30.94

Maternal Deaths

It is gratifying to report that no deaths were ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion, within the Borough during 1961.

General Deaths

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Deaths (all causes)	324	186	138
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population:	9.72		
Comparability Factor for Deaths :	1.44		
Corrected Death Rate :	14.00		

TABLE VIII.

Deaths during 1961 by Age Groups

				<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>		<i>Total</i>	
				1961	1960	1961	1960	1961	1960
0— 4	8	19	5	8	13	27			
5—14	2	2	1	—	3	2			
15—24	3	2	1	1	4	3			
25—44	16	5	9	5	25	10			
45—64	72	65	23	29	95	94			
65 and over ..	85	108	99	96	184	204			
All Deaths ..	<u>186</u>	<u>201</u>	<u>138</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>324</u>	<u>340</u>			

Deaths from Certain Causes

TABLE IX.

	1961	1960
Cardio Vascular Diseases	90	91
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System ..	43	49
Cancer	89	64
Bronchitis	31	35
Influenza	12	3
Pneumonia	19	18
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	3

Causes of Death during 1961 in detail

TABLE X.

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis Respiratory ..	2	—	2
Tuberculosis Other	1	—	1
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections ..	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm (Stomach) ..	12	2	14
Malignant Neoplasm (Uterus) ..	—	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm (Breast) ..	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm (Lung Bronchus)	13	2	15
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	15	8	23
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	1	2
Diabetes	1	5	6
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	23	20	43
Coronary Disease, Angina	33	18	51
Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	2	1	3
Other Heart Disease	10	16	26
Other Circulatory Diseases	5	5	10
Influenza	5	7	12
Pneumonia	8	11	19
Bronchitis	24	7	31
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	2	4
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ..	—	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	1	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ..	—	—	—
Congenital Malformation	2	1	3
Other defined or ill-defined diseases ..	12	17	29
Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	3	8
All Other Accidents	7	5	12
Suicide	—	2	2
Homicide and Operation of War ..	1	1	2
TOTAL ..	186	138	324

The total of all deaths shows a reduction of 16 from 1960. Pulmonary Tuberculosis is lower by one death but deaths from all forms remain at last year's level of three. The one death from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis was due to Tuberculous Meningitis and occurred in a 37 year old Indian who lodged in the town.

Deaths from Malignant Disease show a fall of eleven—lung cancer shows a decrease of one but the male to female ratio of 7 to 1 in 1960 shows a slight hardening in favour of females in 1961 in the proportions of 13 to 2.

For the third year in succession there were not any deaths attributable to Acute Infectious Diseases.

Deaths from Cardio-Vascular Diseases are up by two, while deaths from Road Traffic Accidents increased two-fold to eight.

The two deaths from Leukaemia were of a forty-two year old male Pakistani and an English housewife aged sixty-four. In both cases the condition was diagnosed as Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia—one of the forms of this disease which has been increasing since the early 1900's and does not appear to be associated with non-ionising radiations.

PART III.

EPIDEMIOLOGY

'Did you ever hav' the measels, and if so how many?'

—Artemus Ward His Book. The Census.

Charles Farrar Browne (1843—1867).

A marked increase—813—in the number of notifications of Infectious Diseases under the Public Health Act, 1936 (Sections 144–147 and Section 143) is noted, when compared with the 183 received in 1960. This is due to the Measles epidemic, which was responsible for 720 notifications. Notifications and subsequent confirmations of Dysentery and Food Poisoning show a decline, while an increase of 15 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis is noted.

Tuberculosis

It is unsatisfactory to have to report that notifications of Tuberculosis—all forms—show an increase of 15 from 20 in 1960 to 35 in 1961. This is the highest reached since 1955, when a total of 44 notifications were received. Deaths, however, remain at the same level of 3. Of the 34 notifications, 7 or 20% were among Indian or Pakistani immigrants, while the remaining 28 cases occurred among white natives. When we consider the relatively small proportion of Indians and Pakistanis to white people in Bilston, it is disturbing to note such a high percentage of Pulmonary Tuberculosis among these immigrants. The one death from the Non-Pulmonary form of the disease was due to Tuberculous Meningitis in a 37 year old Indian.

TABLE 1.

Tuberculosis Notifications

<i>Year</i>			<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>
1951	..	..	54	7
1952	..	..	44	3
1953	..	..	53	4
1954	..	..	57	8
1955	..	..	43	1
1956	..	..	28	Nil
1957	..	..	29	2
1958	..	..	22	Nil
1959	..	..	27	3
1960	..	..	19	1
1961	..	..	34	1

Measles

The year under review was a 'measles' year in Bilston—the usual two-year periodicity associated with the condition was well manifested by the occurrence of 720 cases in the Borough. The epidemic was mild, only two cases requiring hospitalisation, and no fatalities being recorded.

Scarlet Fever

Of the nine cases of Scarlet Fever notified, one was admitted to hospital, where an uneventful recovery ensued. The causal organisms appear to be in only a very mildly virulent phase at the present time.

Diphtheria

For the fourth year in succession no cases of Diphtheria occurred within the Borough—a striking testimony to the efficacy of the immunisations performed by General Practitioners and Local Health Authority personnel.

Whooping Cough

A decrease of 30 notifications of Whooping Cough is reported—the present figure of 6 being the lowest yet recorded. Immunological procedures must be regarded as solely responsible for this marked and satisfactory fall.

Poliomyelitis, because of its dramatic suddenness and obvious residual effects in those sufficiently fortunate to recover, is generally regarded as the most serious of all Infectious Diseases. Whooping Cough, however, in very young children does not always receive the careful attention it merits. Insidious in onset, it exerts its deleterious effects on pulmonary tissue, frequently leaving its young victims as respiratory cripples in adolescence and adult life from Fibrosis of the lung and Bronchiectasis.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis

Although two notifications were received, no case of Poliomyelitis was confirmed in Bilston during the year.

Pneumonia

Of the 21 cases notified 19 died. The majority were elderly people.

Meningococcal Infection

No notification in respect of this condition was received.

Dysentery and Food Poisoning

As usual, Dysentery and Food Poisoning are coupled together, because of the difficulty of clinical differentiation. Of 14 Dysentery notifications, only 1 was subsequently confirmed on bacteriological examination.

Venereal Diseases

The figures supplied through the courtesy of Dr. Agate, Consultant Venereologist, Wolverhampton Hospital Group, for Bilston residents during 1961, are as follows :—

<i>Total 1961</i>	..	..	..	95
Syphilis	..	..	..	10
Gonorrhoea	..	..	..	27
Non-Venereal	..	..	..	58
<i>Coloured</i>				
Syphilis	..	..	..	9
Gonorrhoea	..	..	..	22
Non-Venereal	..	..	..	16
<i>Whites</i>				
Syphilis	..	..	..	1
Gonorrhoea	..	..	..	5
Non-Venereal	..	..	..	42

A slight increase in both Syphilis and Gonorrhoea, and a reduction in Non-Venereal conditions, is noted.

Scabies

Any cases of Scabies did not come to the notice of the Health Department during 1961.

TABLE 2
Infectious Diseases notified 1961

Disease	Total cases notified	Total cases confirmed	Cases admitted to hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	9	9	1	—
Whooping Cough	6	6	1	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	2	—	2	—
Measles	720	720	2	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	14	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	21	21	1	19
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—
Fever	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	1	—	—
Food Poisoning	4	4	—	—
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	34	34	4	2
Tuberculosis—Meninges	—	—	—	—
C.N.S.	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—Other	1	1	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—
Total	813	797	11	22
Total cases confirmed during 1959			522	
Total cases confirmed during 1960			131	

TABLE 3

Infectious Diseases—Confirmed. In Wards. 1961

DISEASE	New Town		High Town		Town Hall		Ettingshall		Bradley		TOTAL	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Scarlet Fever ..	—	1	2	—	1	—	1	—	2	2	6	3
Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	3	3	3
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	1	—	1	2	5	2	—	2	2	6	9	12
Measles ..	38	41	42	29	108	93	61	70	115	123	364	356
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning ..	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	40	42	46	31	115	97	62	73	121	135	384	378

TABLE 4
Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis Cases notified during 1959 — 1961

	1951 Census			1959		1960		1961		TOTAL	
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4 ..	1,611	1,548	3,159	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 ..	2,692	2,635	5,327	2	1	1	—	2	1	5	2
15—24 ..	2,376	2,656	5,032	3	3	3	2	—	4	6	9
25—44 ..	5,293	5,078	10,371	11	3	4	4	10	8	25	15
45—64 ..	3,343	3,677	7,020	6	—	5	—	8	1	19	1
65 and over ..	1,159	1,390	2,549	—	1	1	—	1	—	2	1
Age unknown ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	16,474	16,984	33,458	22	8	14	6	21	14	57	28

TABLE 5

Deaths from Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis during 1959—1961

	1959		1960		1961		TOTAL	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—44	..	..	2	—	1	2	4	1
45—64	..	..	3	1	—	1	6	1
65 and over	..	..	1	1	—	—	1	1
	6	2	2	1	3	—	11	3

TABLE 6
Tuberculosis Statistics—Number on Register at
31st December, 1961

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pulmonary			
Under 1 year	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	7	8	15
6 to 15 years	16	13	29
16 to 25 years	55	71	126
26 to 45 years	105	76	181
46 to 65 years	78	9	87
Over 65 years	8	4	12
Ages unknown	5	2	7
Total all ages	274	183	457
Non-Pulmonary			
Under 1 year	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	6	3	9
6 to 15 years	—	4	4
16 to 25 years	12	5	17
26 to 45 years	3	11	14
46 to 65 years	—	—	—
Over 65 years	1	—	1
Total all ages	22	23	45
Pulmonary all ages	274	183	457
Non-Pulmonary all ages	22	23	45
GRAND TOTAL	296	206	502

TABLE 7
Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Wards
1954—61

Year	New Town		High Town		Town Hall		Ettingshall		Bradley		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1954	4	5	3	2	9	7	8	5	5	9	29	28
1955	3	5	7	—	4	11	3	3	8	4	25	23
1956	3	2	1	—	5	5	1	1	4	4	14	12
1957	7	4	2	1	1	6	3	3	2	—	15	14
1958	4	3	2	—	1	3	2	2	4	1	13	9
1959	3	—	2	1	9	4	2	2	5	3	21	10
1960	1	—	3	—	7	1	1	3	6	2	18	6
1961	2	3	4	2	13	3	1	4	—	2	20	14

TABLE 8
Tuberculosis Notifications

YEAR	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		TOTAL	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1951	33	21	5	2	38	23
1952	17	27	1	2	18	29
1953	32	21	1	3	33	24
1954	29	28	5	3	34	31
1955	25	23	1	—	26	23
1956	14	12	—	—	14	12
1957	21	16	2	1	23	17
1958	13	12	—	—	13	12
1959	21	10	3	—	24	10
1960	18	6	—	1	18	7
1961	20	14	1	—	21	14
Including Inward Transfers.						

PART IV

HOUSING

'When we build, let us think that we build for ever'.

—The Seven Lamps of Architecture.
Chap.6. The Lamp of Memory.
John Ruskin (1819—1900).

In Bilston, we are confronted by many legacies from the past in the form of slum property and sub-standard housing. En passant it is necessary to refer, as I have done in Annual Reports in the past, to the proven correlation between poor housing including overcrowding and the various Infectious Diseases, particularly Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and also the Infantile Mortality Rate. Adequate housing, pure water and clean air, form the triad upon which a healthy community is nurtured.

During the year considerable progress in clearing and redeveloping slum areas was made by the various Corporation Departments concerned. The Health Department is chiefly involved in representing areas for slum clearance and carrying out the detailed requisite inspections, as well as inspections and recommendations under the 'Points' Scheme for allocation of houses.

During 1961 the following areas comprising a total of 137 houses were represented for clearance.

SCHEDULE

	AREA 91
CROSS STREET	4, 5, 5 bk. 5 (Void), 6.
	AREA 92
CROSS STREET	9, 7 bk. 9, 10, 10 bk. 10. 11, 12, 12A.
	AREA 93
CROSS STREET	14, 15.
	AREA 94
CROSS STREET	18, 19, 20, 21.
	AREA 95
HILL STREET	65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91.
	AREA 96
HILL STREET	6, 8, 2 bk. 8, 10, 12.
	AREA 97
HILL STREET	18, 20, 4 bk. 20, 22, 24, 6 bk. 22 (Void), 8 bk. 22 (Void), 10 bk. 22, 26, 28, 12 bk. 28, 30.
	AREA 98
HILL STREET	50, 52, 54.
	AREA 99
HILL STREET	66, 68, 70, 72.

	AREA 100
HILL STREET	76, bk. 76, 78, 32 bk. 78, 80, 82, 34 bk. 82.
	AREA 101
HILL STREET	86, 88, 90, 92, bk. 92, 94, bk. 94.
	AREA 102
WILKINSON STREET	1, 2, 3.
	AREA 103
LORD STREET	8, 10, 12, 14, 2 bk. 14, 4 bk. 14, 8 bk. 14 (Void), 16 (Void), 18, 20, 10 bk. 18.
BANK STREET	61, 63, 65, 67.
	AREA 104
LORD STREET	22 (Void), 24, 26, 28 (Void), 12 bk. 28, 30, 14 bk. 30, 32, 34, 36, 16 bk. 36, 38 (Void), 18 bk. 38 (Void), 20 bk. 38 (Void), 22 bk. 40, 40, 42, 24 bk. 42, 44.
	AREA 105
BANK STREET	60, 62, 56 bk. 62, 64, 66, 68, 58 bk. 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82 (Void), 84.
JORDAN PLACE	1.
KING STREET	6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18.
	AREA 106
KING STREET	25, 27, 29 (Void), 31, 33, 9 bk. 33, 11 bk. 33. 13 bk. 33.
	AREA 107
WOLVERHAMPTON STREET	149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159.

Ministerial confirmation in respect of the following areas was received.

	JOHN STREET AREA 88
JOHN STREET	50, 12/50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 14/60, 62.
	JOHN STREET AREA 89
JOHN STREET	66, 67/66, 68, 70, 20/70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112.
	GEORGE STREET AREA 90
SWEETBRIAR ROAD	6, 8, 10, 12, 14.
PUMP STREET	1, 1/1, 3, 5, 7.
GEORGE STREET	1/56, 2/56, 3/56, 4/56, 10/56, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56.

Fifty-two municipal houses were erected and sixty-three unfit houses were closed or demolished during the year.

Applicants for municipal houses are at present being rehoused in the ratio of 2 : 1 from Slum Clearance and from the 'Points' List.

Houses closed or demolished since the War

	<i>Year</i>					<i>Total</i>
War to	1947	..	..	..	..	50
	1948	..	..	..	..	46
	1949	..	..	..	..	21
	1950	..	..	..	..	30
	1951	..	..	..	..	108
	1952	..	..	..	..	93
	1953	..	..	..	..	120
	1954	..	..	..	..	64
	1955	..	..	..	..	54
	1956	..	..	..	..	94
	1957	..	..	..	..	191
	1958	..	..	..	..	183
	1959	..	..	..	..	126
	1960	..	..	..	..	90
	1961	..	..	..	..	63
						<hr/>
						1,333
						<hr/>

PART V

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

'An' I thowt 'twur the will o' the Lord, but Miss Annie she said it wur dräains'.

—The Village Wife, ii.

Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809—1892).

Water

The Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking is responsible for the Bilston water supply following the Wolverhampton Water Order, 1958. Mr. W. C. Johnson, M.I.C.E., the Wolverhampton Water Engineer, has very kindly supplied the following information.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WATER SUPPLY

A summary of information in respect of the area administered by the Bilston Borough Council, for the year ended 31st December, 1961.

(i) *Water Supply*

The water supplied to your area by this Undertaking has been

(a) satisfactory in quality and

(b) satisfactory in quantity.

(ii) *Analyses*

The results of all bacteriological examinations on the raw and treated waters are summarised in the Reports attached hereto. No chemical analysis was carried out in 1961.

(iii) *Plumbo-solvent action*

The water supplied by this Undertaking is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

(iv) *Contamination*

Number of instances of contamination of the supply subsequent to leaving the works. *Nil.*

Action taken —

(v) *Houses and Population*

The total population supplied by the Undertaking on 31st December, 1961, was 342,300.

No record of the number of houses or population supplied in the individual administrative areas supplied by this Undertaking is available.

WOLVERHAMPTON CORPORATION WATER UNDERTAKING
Summary of results of bacteriological examinations carried out in the Undertaking's Laboratory during the year ended 31st December, 1961

1. Water going into Distribution

Source of Supply	No. of Samples	Coli-Aerogenes Organisms per 100 ml.			
		0	1-2	3-10	Over 10
Cosford :					
Mixed treated well water and treated river water ..	98	97	1	0	0
Tettenhall :					
Treated water from reservoirs	197	188	6	3	0
Dimmingsdale :					
Treated water from boreholes	52	51	1	0	0
Hilton :					
Treated water from boreholes	97	97	0	0	0
Bratch :					
Treated water from borehole	51	50	1	0	0
Tom Hill :					
Treated water from borehole	51	51	0	0	0
Rindleford :					
Untreated water from borehole	46	46	0	0	0
Total ..	592	580	9	3	0

2. Water from Distribution System

Reservoirs :					
Tettenhall	30	28	0	2	0
Goldthorn Hill	15	15	0	0	0
Bushbury Hill	16	16	0	0	0
Coton Road	30	30	0	0	0
Woodcross	15	15	0	0	0
Hermitage Hill	30	29	0	1	0
Hundred Hill	15	14	1	0	0
Elevated Tanks :					
Essington	21	19	1	0	1
Bishops Wood	15	15	0	0	0
Gough Road, Coseley ..	15	15	0	0	0
Re-Pumping Stations :					
Goldthorn Hill	15	15	0	0	0
Sandbeds	15	15	0	0	0
Millfields	15	14	1	0	0
Linthouses	1	1	0	0	0
Salop St. Bridgnorth ..	15	15	0	0	0
Kiddemore Green	11	11	0	0	0
Distribution Mains :					
Hydrants	142	129	3	1	9
Domestic Taps	4	4	0	0	0
Total ..	420	400	6	4	10

3. Water Before and During Treatment

Source of Supply	No. of Samples	Coli. Aerogenes organisms per 100 ml.			
		0	1-2	3-10	Over 10
Cosford :					
River Worfe raw water	12		Median 1100		
Settled Water	12	11	0	1	0
Filtered Water	12	11	0	1	0
Well Water	51	51	0	0	0
Tettenhall :					
No. 1 Borehole	51	51	0	0	0
No. 2 Borehole	51	51	0	0	0
Dimmingsdale :					
No. 1 Borehole	38	38	0	0	0
No. 2 Borehole	38	38	0	0	0
No. 3 Borehole	50	50	0	0	0
Hilton :					
No. 1 Borehole	32	32	0	0	0
No. 2 Borehole	66	66	0	0	0
Stableford :					
No. 1 Borehole	15	15	0	0	0
No. 2 Borehole	21	21	0	0	0
No. 3 Borehole	46	46	0	0	0
No. 4 Borehole	52	52	0	0	0
Tom Hill :					
Borehole	51	51	0	0	0
Copley :					
Trial Borehole	25	25	0	0	0
Total	623				

4. Miscellaneous Samples

New and Repaired Mains ..	312
Sundry	15
Total	<u>327</u>

5. Number of Samples Examined

Water going into distribution ..	592
Water from Distribution System ..	420
Water before and during treatment..	623
Miscellaneous	327
	<u>1,962</u>

Sewage

I am indebted to Mr. A. F. B. Sidwick, the Borough Engineer and Surveyor for the following report.

The sewage disposal works are situated at the Lunt Road, Bilston and deal with the flow of sewage from the whole of the Borough, together with 1,663 acres of the northern part of the Coseley Urban District and also parts of the adjoining areas of Wolverhampton, Willenhall and Darlaston, a total of 3,588 acres.

The system of disposal is precipitation followed by continuous filtration; the sludge from the tanks gravitates to a well from which it is pumped to lagoons.

The Disposal works were first constructed in 1905. The works were extended in 1924 and again in 1929 to provide additional capacity for the reception and treatment of sewage from a part of the Coseley Urban District which now contains approximately 6,044 houses with numerous industrial and other premises.

All major units of the works are heavily overloaded and schemes for improvements and extensions have been under consideration by the Council.

Discussions have taken place with the Willenhall Urban District Council on proposals for (a) independent schemes for improving the Bilston and Willenhall Sewage Disposal Works, (b) a combined treatment works at Willenhall and (c) a 'modified combined' scheme at Willenhall to deal with so much sewage of Bilston as is in excess of the capacity of the Corporation's existing disposal works.

The Corporation have agreed to adopt the proposed 'modified combined' scheme and discussions are proceeding with the County Council with a view to submitting the scheme to the Ministry for approval.

Drains and Water Closets

1,099 choked drains and water closets were cleansed by the Health Department Staff.

In accordance with the Public Health Officers' Regulations, 1959, Article 25(20) (S.R.&O.) 1959, No. 962, the following tabular statement has been submitted by the Chief Public Health Inspector.

(a) INSPECTIONS

<i>Nature of Inspection</i>	<i>1st Inspections</i>	<i>Re- Inspections</i>	<i>Total</i>
Dwelling Houses			
Inspections—Routine	270	163	433
Complaints	326	376	702
Dirty Condition	15	15	30
Rent Act, 1957	2	2	4
Disinfected	6	—	6
Disinfested	77	—	77
Rodent Control	231	597	828
Infectious Disease	25	11	36
Disinfestation—Visits	47	5	52
Removals	114	—	114
Slum Clearance—Inspections ..	132	1,481	1,613
Miscellaneous ..	95	24	119
Overcrowding	36	10	46
Other Premises			
Houses let in lodgings	46	13	59
Tents, Vans, Sheds, Sites	17	30	47
Factories—Mechanical Power ..	7	4	11
No Power	2	—	2
Workplaces—Ordinary	3	3	6
Slaughterhouses—Inspected ..	105	48	153
Meat Inspection ..	576	27	603
Public Conveniences	8	3	11
Visits to Canals	2	2	4
Stables	1	—	1
Premises re Fowl, Swine, etc. ..	10	5	15
Premises re Offensive Accumu- lation	59	58	117
Drains—Inspected	84	63	147
Colour Tested	11	4	15
Water Tested	1	—	1
Grenade Tested	1	—	1
Smoke Tested	7	—	7
Sewers—Inspected	5	—	5
Street Gullies	1	1	2
Smoke Observations	21	2	23
Visits to Plant, etc. ..	7	—	7
Water Samples—Chemical	3	—	3
Smoke Measurement	155	1	156
Pet Animals Act, 1951	12	2	14
Cleansing Visits	8	10	18
Miscellaneous Visits	209	8	217
Rodent Control	20	33	53

	1st <i>Inspections</i>	2nd <i>Inspections</i>	<i>Total</i>
Food Hygiene Regulations			
Cafes, Restaurants and Kitchens	8	3	11
Works Canteens and Kitchens ..	2	—	2
School Canteens	1	—	1
Fried Fish Shops	5	—	5
Market—Food Stalls	108	47	155
Visits	43	7	50
Shops—Meat	19	19	38
Food	79	34	113
Others	18	1	19
Mobile	9	—	9
Other Food Stalls and Carts ..	17	13	30
Public Houses	8	1	9
Milk—Retailers	1	—	1
Ice Cream—Retailers	1	—	1

(b) NOTICES

Informal Notices Issued	110
Informal Notices Complied	169
Statutory Notices—Section 92–93	
Public Health Act, 1936—Issued ..	10
Complied ..	24

(c) IMPROVEMENTS MADE AS A RESULT OF THE SERVICE
OF INFORMAL OR STATUTORY NOTICES

Dwelling Houses	<i>By Notice</i>	<i>Without Notice</i>	<i>Total</i>
Internal Rooms			
Ventilation Improved	1	—	1
New Windows Provided	4	1	5
Old Windows Repaired	10	1	11
Window Cords Renewed	9	2	11
Dampness in Walls Remedied ..	6	—	6
Plaster of Walls Repaired	14	1	15
Plaster of Ceilings Repaired ..	10	1	11
Floors Repaired	4	—	4
Old Fireplaces Repaired	1	—	1
Doors Repaired	1	—	1
New Fireplaces Provided	—	—	—
Ovens Provided	—	—	—
Staircases			
Steps Provided or Repaired ..	2	1	3
Plaster or Ceilings Repaired ..	—	—	—
Sculleries and Wash Houses			
Windows Repaired	1	—	1
Window Cords Renewed	—	—	—
New Sinks Provided	1	2	3
Water Service Pipes Repaired ..	—	—	—
Waste Pipes Repaired or Renewed	2	2	4
Waste Pipes Trapped	1	—	1
Floors Repaired	1	1	2
Doors Repaired	1	—	1
Roofs Repaired	—	—	—
New Windows Provided	1	—	1
Ventilation Improved	—	1	1
Cellars			
Floors Repaired	1	—	1
Drainage Provided	1	1	2
Doors Repaired	—	1	1
External			
Roofs Repaired	53	5	58
Eaves Spouts Repaired or Pro- vided	22	1	23
Down Spouts Repaired or Pro- vided	9	1	10
Down Spouts Disconnected from Drain	—	—	—
Walls Repaired and/or Repointed	10	1	11

	<i>By Notice</i>	<i>Without Notice</i>	<i>Total</i>
External Cont.			
Chimney Stacks Repaired and/or Repointed	8	5	13
Doors Repaired	1	—	1
Steps Repaired	1	—	1
New Chimney Pot Provided ..	—	—	—
Under Floor Ventilation ..	—	—	—
General			
Yards Paved	1	—	1
Yard Paving or Surfaces Re- paired	6	1	7
Yard Drainage Installed ..	—	1	1
Water Supply Restored	1	—	1
Outbuildings			
Coal Stores			
Roofs Repaired	3	1	4
Doors Repaired	—	—	—
Water Closets			
Roofs Repaired	6	1	7
Eaves Spouts Provided and/or Repaired	—	—	—
Walls Repaired or Repointed ..	2	—	2
Doors Repaired	2	—	2
New Cistern Fixed or Repaired ..	12	4	16
New Pedestals and Seat Repaired or Provided	3	1	4
Soil Pipes Repaired	8	—	8
Water Supply Provided, Pipes Repaired	2	—	2
New Water Closet Provided ..	—	1	1
Drains			
Repaired or Relaid	24	12	36
Cleansed	5	3	8
Inspection Chambers Built or Repaired	8	1	9
Self Cleansing Gullies Provided	3	—	3
New Inspection Chamber Covers Provided	2	—	2
New Drains Laid	1	—	1
Disconnected from Sewer ..	1	—	1

	<i>By Notice</i>	<i>Without Notice</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ashbins			
Renewals	—	880	880
Provided for New Houses ..	—	74	74
Bin Sales	—	30	30
Infested Premises			
Freed from Vermin	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations			
Removed	—	5	5
Smoke Observations			
Nuisance Abated	—	2	2
Additions to Plant or Improve- ments	—	2	2
Slaughterhouses			
Lighting/Ventilation Improved ..	—	1	1
Walls Repaired/Rendered Im- pervious	—	2	2
Cleansed/Limewashed	—	1	1
Tents, Vans, Sheds and Sites			
Sites Improved	—	3	3
Factories—Mechanical Power			
Noise Abatement	1	—	1
Food Shops			
Improvements under Food Hy- giene Regulations	—	—	—
Outside Display Improved ..	—	3	3
Wash Hand Basins Provided ..	—	1	1
Redecoration	1	—	1
Clean Towels, Soap, etc., Pro- vided	—	—	—
Hot Water Provided	—	—	—
Sink Provided	—	1	1
First Aid Equipment Provided ..	—	1	1
Counter Re-covered or Re- newed	—	—	—
Internal Display Improved ..	—	1	1
Fried Fish Shops			
Other Improvements	1	1	2

	<i>By Notice</i>	<i>Without Notice</i>	<i>Total</i>
Other Food Premises			
Cleansed—Limewashed	—	—	—
Structural Improvements ..	—	—	—
Hot and/or Cold Water Provided or Improved	1	—	1
Drainage Provided or Improved	—	—	—
Wash Hand Basins Fitted ..	—	—	—
Sinks Provided	—	—	—
Nailbrushes Provided	—	—	—
Ventilation Improved	—	—	—
Counter Display Improved ..	—	—	—
First Aid Dressings Provided ..	—	—	—
Other Improvements	4	3	7
New Sanitary Acc. Provided ..	—	—	—
Pet Shops			
Emergency Notice Provided ..	—	1	1

Disinfestation

96 houses were disinfested. Treatment was by fumigant smoke or insecticide sprays.

In addition there were 114 removals, the tenant's effects and furniture being treated by HCN gas and the bedding sterilised in the steam disinfecter.

Rodent Control

The total number of complaints received during the year was 255—13 more than last year. 881 visits were made for the treatment of premises, besides the regular treatments carried out on waste land, brook courses, etc.

CLEANSING

The Cleansing Superintendent, Mr. J. R. Tart, M.A.P.H.I., reports as follows :—

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL (Period 1st April, 1961 to 31st March, 1962)

Collection

The basis of the collection side of the service is four teams of men and four vehicles. The teams for three vehicles are of six men and driver, and for the fourth a team of four men and driver. Additionally one vehicle and loader driver is employed on the collection of paper and fibreboard.

Collection frequency was satisfactory throughout the period, except after Bank Holidays, but this fall-back is usually eliminated in about two weeks. An exception was after the Christmas Holiday. This year there was an unprecedented outbreak of minor sickness, and the absence of men, added to the usual increased amount of seasonal refuse, caused havoc with the service. Absence of drivers was particularly disastrous, resulting in vehicles standing idle. A contributory factor to the delay was that the exceptionally cold weather froze solid the contents of some bins. Considerable force had to be used to free the refuse. If housewives would avoid putting wet tea leaves and potato peelings, etc. in the bin, the bin contents would smell less offensively, the bin would not become internally coated with an irremovable and foul smelling layer of filth and ashes, it would last longer and would be easier to empty. The water from tea leaves and potato peelings is quite easily strained off and the damp material can then be bundled in an old newspaper before being put in the bin.

The question of the paper sack system of refuse storage in place of the conventional metal dust bin has been carefully considered, but on the score of cost alone, this most desirable system has had to be shelved. If the time arrives when the paper sacks are offered at a more realistic price, the matter will be re-considered.

All vehicles worked satisfactorily during the year but the time has come to replace the two old side loaders with more modern vehicles. Orders have been placed for two vehicles, similar but larger bodied, to the one put in service in February last year. It will be seen from Table 1 that this Diesel engined vehicle returns almost twice the m.p.g. of the petrol engined vehicles of similar size.

I would like to thank the Cleansing Foreman and all the men for their efforts during the year. Their work passes unnoticed when all is well, and that must be the only reward. When collection falls back due to circumstances beyond their control, a double effort is needed to catch up and I fear the average householder often fails to appreciate this.

TABLE 1

Vehicle Description		Date Purchased	Total Mileage	Mileage 1961-1962	Galls. Fuel Used	M.P.G.
EUK 269	MORRIS 7 cu. yd. SIDE LOADER (Salvage Collection)	1947	66,222	33	7	6
SRE 770	S.D. 12 cu. yd. SIDE LOADER	July, 1949	50,345	3,565	1,002	3.56
URE 962	S.D. 12 cu. yd. SIDE LOADER	October, 1950	49,783	4,458	1,235	3.61
XRE 939	S.D. 16 cu. yd. 'FORE & AFT' REAR LOADER	July, 1952	41,749	4,018	1,145	3.51
980 ARF	KARRIER 7 cu. yd. SIDE LOADER	January, 1954	32,634	2,751	443	6.21
8443 RE	KARRIER 18 cu. yd. 'DUAL TIP' REAR LOADER	February, 1960	10,455	4,862	652 DERV	7.46

TABLE 2
HOUSE REFUSE—DRY

Receptacles Emptied	Loads Removed	Estimated Tonnage
497,679	3,511	7,341

TABLE 3
MISCELLANEOUS REFUSE REMOVED

Trade Refuse	Waste Paper	Total
Tons	Tons	Tons
188	76	264

Salvage

Collection figures are given below :—

TABLE 4

MATERIALS	1961-62			1960-61		
	Weight		Value	Weight		Value
	Tons	Cwts.	£	Tons	Cwts.	£
Paper	75	14	709	93	18	775
Scrap Metal	—	—	8	—	—	6
	75	14	717	93	18	781

Disposal

All refuse was disposed of at the trial composting plant. The efforts of the firm concerned in this venture, unfavourably reported upon previously, have come to nought, and the plant was closed down at the end of the financial year. The practicability of composting refuse and saving valuable material is a proven possibility, but the methods employed in this venture foredoomed the experiment to failure.

Total refuse disposed of was 7,529 tons as compared with 7,793 tons last year.

Operational Statistics

Area (statute acres)	1,871 acres
Population at 30th June, 1961 (Registrar General's Estimate)	33,320 persons
Total refuse collected (tons)	7,605 tons
Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year) ..	12.49 cwts.
Number of premises from which refuse is collected	10,460
Premises from which collection is made at least once weekly	99% of total
Average haul (miles) by collection vehicle to dis- posal point (single journey)	2 miles
Kerbside collection, if practised, expressed as es- timated percentage of total collection	Nil
Total refuse disposed of	7,529 tons
Method of disposal (salvage excluded) Trial Com- posting Scheme	100%

Analysis of income and tonnage :—

	<i>Income</i>	<i>Tonnage</i>
	£	Tons
Scrap Metal	8	—
Waste Paper	709	76
	<hr/> 717	<hr/> 76
Trade Refuse	362	188

Caravans and Moveable Dwellings

47 visits were made to various sites in the Borough for the inspection of caravans occupied by gypsies and other wanderers.

Atmospheric Pollution

DEPOSIT GAUGES

Total solids are as follows :—

January	Park Site .. ..	..	45.50	tons per square mile				
"	Dudley Street Site	..	26.66	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
February	Park Site .. ..	..	22.30	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
"	Dudley Street Site	..	27.72	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
March	Park Site .. ..	..	26.75	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
"	Dudley Street Site	..	46.99	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
April	Park Site .. ..	..	No Sample					
"	Dudley Street Site	..	32.03	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
May	Park Site .. ..	..	6.70	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
"	Dudley Street Site	..	5.07	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
June	Park Site .. ..	..	34.33	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
"	Dudley Street Site	..	19.01	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
July	Park Site .. ..	..	23.46	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
"	Dudley Street Site	..	23.68	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
August	Park Site .. ..	..	26.18	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
"	Dudley Street Site	..	23.91	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
September	Park Site .. ..	..	28.24	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
"	Dudley Street Site	..	26.99	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
October	Park Site .. ..	..	27.97	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
"	Dudley Street Site	..	24.81	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
November	Park Site .. ..	..	23.77	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
"	Dudley Street Site	..	32.13	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
December	Park Site .. ..	..	20.87	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "
"	Dudley Street Site	..	25.77	" "	" "	" "	" "	" "

Daily Mean Concentrations of SO2 and Smoke

Month			SO2 microgms/cu.m.			Smoke microgms/cu.m.
January	..	Average	..	..	52	150
		Highest	..	..	99	250
		Lowest	..	..	25	90
February	..	Average	..	..	44	120
		Highest	..	..	114	280
		Lowest	..	..	23	80
March	..	Average	..	..	40	101
		Highest	..	..	94	210
		Lowest	..	..	20	10
April	..	Average	..	..	58	96
		Highest	..	..	156	210
		Lowest	..	..	25	40
May	..	Average	..	..	44	62
		Highest	..	..	99	110
		Lowest	..	..	26	30
June	..	Average	..	..	52	48
		Highest	..	..	107	90
		Lowest	..	..	14	20
July	..	Average	..	..	29	35
		Highest	..	..	54	60
		Lowest	..	..	9	20
August	..	Average	..	..	27	40
		Highest	..	..	54	90
		Lowest	..	..	9	10
September	..	Average	..	..	39	75
		Highest	..	..	97	150
		Lowest	..	..	11	30
October	..	Average	..	..	52	112
		Highest	..	..	140	270
		Lowest	..	..	11	40
November	..	Average	..	..	54	131
		Highest	..	..	138	322
		Lowest	..	..	12	69
December	..	Average	..	..	624	143
		Highest	..	..	1,312	814
		Lowest	..	..	108	29

LEAD PEROXIDE CYLINDERS

Mgs. of SO₃ per day collected by 100 sq. cm. of Batch 'G'

Station	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Library ..	3.15	2.03	1.74	2.01	1.06	0.79	0.81	0.66	1.05	1.95	2.65	3.85
Park ..	3.27	2.43	2.16	2.02	1.21	0.95	1.05	1.10	1.38	2.66	2.61	3.76
Wellington Road ..	2.73	2.25	1.51	1.65	0.88 No Sample	0.64	0.57	0.55	0.86	1.31	2.50	2.97
Ettingshall Road ..	2.77	1.71	1.34	1.72	1.21	0.95	0.85	0.68 No Sample	0.92	1.80	2.24	3.27
Vicarage, Bradley ..	3.40	2.11	1.85	2.07	1.21	0.90	0.90	0.83	1.07	1.78	2.91	3.77
Moxley Hospital ..	3.49	2.21	1.81	2.02	1.32	0.83	0.95	0.83	1.17	1.84	2.71	3.74 No Sample
Fire Station ..	5.87	4.19	3.26	5.77	5.41	1.57	1.78	1.25	2.22	3.29	6.27	4.93
Lunt Road Depot ..	4.62	3.24	2.54	3.03	1.80	1.21	1.04	1.01	1.81	2.65	4.04	3.36
Freeman Place ..	2.82	1.89	1.49	1.54	1.13	0.58	0.69	0.54	0.89	1.46	2.39	4.13
Centre Health Clinic..	3.69	2.04	1.91	2.25	1.40	0.98	0.90	0.86	1.34	2.18	3.16	1.62
Tomhill Waterworks..	1.17	0.77	0.42	0.91	0.56	0.17	0.19	0.42	0.39	0.46	1.13	

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR PART

	Cattle Exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	336	—	—	1,371	27,176	—
Number inspected ..	336	—	—	1,371	27,176	—
All diseases except Tuber- culosis and Cysticerci:						
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	32	—	—	12	5,649	—
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ..	9.52	—	—	0.87	20.78	—
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	1,353	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	4.98	—
Cysticerci :						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refriger- ation	1	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and Totally condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—

CARCASSES AND ORGANS

Generalised Cysticerci	..	..	..	1
Septicaemia	..	..	..	1
Ill-Bled	..	..	..	1
				—
				3
				—

<i>Food</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Reason for Condemnation</i>
Soft Cod Roe			56	Decomposition.
Bacon and Ham.. ..			105	Decomposition and Bruising.
Packets Marshmallows ..		2	57	Unsaleable.
Shoulder of Ham			64½	Taint.
Cheese			36	Mould.
Tinned Goods		12	17½	Blown and/or Decomposition.
" "			20	Sourness.
" "	1	6	6¾	Leaking.
" "		3	60	Damaged.
Frozen Foods		1	10	Decomposition.
	2	7	96¾	
Fresh Meat	16	4	49½	See Table.
	18	12	34¾	

Food Preparing Premises

172 inspections have been made of food preparing premises.

DISEASE	Carcase and Organs <i>T. C. Lbs.</i>	Heads and Collars <i>T. C. Lbs.</i>	Lungs <i>T. C. Lbs.</i>	Hearts <i>T. C. Lbs.</i>	Livers <i>T. C. Lbs.</i>	Stomach and Intestine <i>T. C. Lbs.</i>
Abcesses		1- 27	7		1- 27	30
Actino Bacillosis		16				
Ascarides Lumbricoides ..					1-12- 98½	
Bruising						
Cavernous Angioma ..				10		
Congestion			6			
Cirrhosis					4- 69	
Contamination					3	
Cysticercus Bovis	9- 17	20		8½		
Distomatosis					93	
Echinococci			16		1-104½	
Fatty Degeneration ..					34	
Haematoma						
Hydronephrosis						
Ill-Bled	1- 14					
Infarcts						
Nephritis						
Pericarditis				3- 48½		
Peritonitis					1- 9-100½	15- 78
Petechiae						
Pleurisy			18-108			
Pneumonia			2- 2- 68			
Retention Cysts						
Septicaemia	1- 24					
Strongylosis			6			
Tenuicollis Cysts					4	
Torsion						
Tuberculosis		6-17- 85	2-101		1- 0	5- 19
Urticaria						
	11- 55	6-19- 36	3- 4- 88	3- 67	3-12- 85½	1- 1- 15

IE (EXCLUDING COWS)

Lungs	Spleens	Omentum	Peri- Toneums	Mesen- teries	Parts of Carcases	TOTALS		
						Tons	Cwts.	Lbs.
T. Lbs.	T. C. Lbs.	T. C. Lbs.	T. C. Lbs.	T. C. Lbs.	T. C. Lbs.			
			2		86		3	67
								16
						1	12	98½
					54			54
								10
								6
							4	69
								3
					2		9	47½
								93
	1						2	9½
								34
	7½							7½
15								15
							1	14
4	53							57
1								1
							3	48½
3- 42½			1- 60½		3- 69	2	14	14½
12								12
							18	108
						2	2	68
23½								23½
							1	24
								6
	1½	1						6½
1								1
4½	1			9	26	7	7	21½
					10			10
3-103½	64	1	1- 62½	9	5- 23	16	4	49½

Food Sampling

The sampling of milk and food under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is undertaken by the County Council who are the Food and Drugs Authority under the Act. Dr. G. Ramage, the County Medical Officer of Health has kindly supplied the following details of samples taken throughout the year.

Milk	T.T.	2
	T.T. (Pasteurised)	5
	Pasteurised	2
	Sterilised	3
		<hr/>
		12 <i>All Genuine.</i>
		<hr/>

General Foods

Number of samples taken . .	60
Number of samples genuine . .	53
Number of samples adulterated . .	7

Classification

Rhubarb in Syrup	Batter and Scone Flour
Malt Vinegar with Caramel	Pork Dripping
French Mustard	Beef Curry with Rice
Meringue Powder—Lemon	Lime and Lemon Drink
Lemon Curd	Corned Beef
Cream of Tomato Soup	Red Cherries in Syrup
Horseradish Sauce	Strawberry Jam
Full Cream Milk Block	Margarine
Mincemeat	Chicken
Greengage Jelly	Lemon Cheese (2 samples)
Evaporated Full Cream Milk	Stewed Steak with Gravy (3 samples)
Strawberries in Syrup	Shortcake Biscuits
Coconut	Meat and Potato Pies
Suet Dumpling Mix	Apricot Jam (5 samples)
Piccalilli	Custard Powder
Boned Chicken	Beef Steak with Gravy
Sliced Beetroot in Vinegar	Christmas Pudding
Butter (2 samples)	Cheese Spread
Curry Powder	Cream South African Sherry
Lemon Barley	Cream Australian Sherry
Blackberries in Heavy Syrup	Wine Cocktail
Creamed Sago	Beef Sausage with Preservatives
Herbal Cough Mixture	Pork Lucheon Meat
Bilberries	Beans in Tomato Sauce
Instant Potato	Menthol and Eucalyptus Sweets
Tomato Juice Cocktail	Lard

Particulars of Adulterated Samples

1 C/J PORK DRIPPING—FORMAL

Contained an undisclosed, permitted (but unnecessary) colouring matter.

Labels to be amended.

47 C/K—CHICKEN—FORMAL.

Should contain not less than 95% of meat and sample is 17.7% deficient of its proper proportion of meat.

Labels to be amended to "Chicken Meat in Jelly".

49 C/K—STEWED STEAK WITH GRAVY (INFORMAL).

Should contain not less than 70% of meat and sample is 12.5% deficient of its proper proportion of meat.

Followed by 66 C/K and 67 C/K below.

10 C/P—APRICOT JAM—FORMAL.

1.5% deficient of its proper proportion of soluble solids.

Cautioned.

77 C/P—APRICOT JAM—FORMAL.

2.1% deficient of its proper proportion of soluble solids.

Cautioned.

66 C/K—STEWED STEAK WITH GRAVY—FORMAL.

Should contain not less than 70% of meat and sample is 3.1% deficient of its proper proportion of meat.

To await decision of Food Standards Committee as to Meat Content.

67 C/K—STEWED STEAK WITH GRAVY—FORMAL.

Should contain not less than 70% of meat and sample is 3.7% deficient of its proper proportion of meat.

To await decision of Food Standards Committee as to Meat content.

Food Preparing Premises

Food shops and food preparing premises in Bilston can be classified as follows :—

Grocers, greengrocers and general shops	..	..	205
Food shops with catering establishments attached	..	..	13
Other catering establishments (including works' canteens and premises of the school meals service)	..	..	47
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	18
Butchers' Shops	..	..	34
Fish Shops	..	..	5
			<hr/>
			322
			<hr/>

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Food Hygiene Regulations

A total of 444 food premises were visited. 22 improvements were effected, and a number of improvements of a structural nature are in progress.

PART VI

HEALTH EDUCATION

'I can easier teach twenty what were good to be done, than be one of the twenty to follow mine own teaching'.

—The Merchant of Venice, I. ii. 15.
William Shakespeare (1564—1616)

Health Education consists of any process or activity whereby better and healthier ways of living are taught or indicated. Since its applications are so diverse, methods of promoting such a subject are of necessity varied and frequently controversial. Propaganda in the form of posters and pamphlets, the mass media of television and sound radio, group discussions and formal lectures, all play a part, but I feel that none are so effective or so valuable as the intimate personal counsel offered by the Health Visitor, Nurse or Public Health Inspectors in the home, school, clinic or shop.

Bilston Corporation in common with most Local Authorities today, make an annual donation to the funds of the Central Council for Health Education which in turn provides the usual pamphlets and posters, and which are distributed from or prominently displayed in some of the Council's Departments.

HOME SAFETY

Home Safety does not receive as much attention either from Local Authorities or from the public, as does Road Safety, possibly because accidents in the home are not as luridly dramatic as Road Traffic Accidents nor are they such good copy for an ever more sensational minded Press. Nevertheless, accidents in the home are responsible for a formidable death roll, especially among the more vulnerable groups of the very young and the very old.

Bilston has a voluntary Home Safety Committee of many years standing. It is closely associated with the Corporation, which contributes generously to its funds, permits the Health Department to be used for meetings and provides clerical and secretarial services through Health Department personnel.

I believe that exhibitions, formal lectures, forums and the usual gags and gimmicks of the Health Educator are of little importance in preventing domiciliary misadventures.

Those who attend lectures and exhibitions are active, hale and hearty and are aware of the hazards in the home and their prevention. The people who really require help are often odd and eccentric, physically sub-normal and frequently living in old and unsuitable houses. They are unable to attend lectures or exhibitions and if anything is to be accomplished they must be seen and instructed in their own homes and who more capable, tactful, kindly or sympathetic than a good Health Visitor. The latter has been largely responsible for the sweeping fall in Infantile Mortality Rates over the past thirty-five years and I have no doubt that a similar reduction in deaths from accidents in the home would occur by increasing the establishment in each Local Health Authority of more highly remunerated Health Visitors, some of whom on appointment should be designated 'Health Visitors with special interest in Home Safety'.



